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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7883.0043-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Marco MORRA et al.) Group Art Unit: 1762
Application No.: 10/645,704) Examiner: MICHENER, JENNIFER KOLB
Filed: August 22, 2003)
For: METHODS FOR SURFACE) Confirmation No.: 9303
MODIFICATION)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed. The listed foreign patent documents are of record in prior Application No. 09/772,908, filed January 31, 2001, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120, and accordingly copies are not enclosed. A copy of the listed non-patent literature document is enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

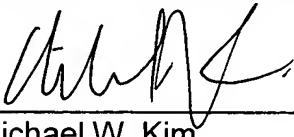
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 18, 2006

By: 
Michael W. Kim
Reg. No. 51,880

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
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(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CIP E 14495

Application Number	10/645,704
Filing Date	August 22, 2003
First Named Inventor	Marco MORRA et al.
Art Unit	1762
Examiner Name	MICHENER, JENNIFER KOLB
Attorney Docket Number	07883.0043-01

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		4,267,202 A	05-1981	Nakayama et al.	
		4,508,606 A	04-1985	Andrade et al.	
		4,786,556 A	11-22-1988	Hu et al.	
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		5,455,040 A	10-03-1995	Marchant	
		5,597,456 A	01-28-1997	Maruyama et al.	
		5,643,580 A	07-1997	Subramaniam	
		5,700,742 A	12-1997	Payne	
		5,723,219 A	03-1998	Kolluri et al.	
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Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ³	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		GB 2,257,147 A	01-06-1993	Cordis Corp.		
		EP 0 124 200 A	11-07-1984	Becton Dickinson Co.		
		EP 0 104 608 B1	03-12-1986	Becton Dickinson and Company		
		EP 0 941 740 A2	09-15-1999	MEDTRONIC, INC.		
		EP 1 088 564 A1	04-04-2001	Orbus Medical		

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

			Technologies, Inc.		
		WO 97/22631	06-26-1997	Talison Research	
		WO 98/10116	03-12-1998	Talison Research	
		WO 00/48530	08-24-2000	Talison Research, Inc.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		International Search Report in International Application No. PCT/US/02/02430 dated 11/21/2002.	

Examiner
SignatureDate
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.